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the earliest insurance case known—had nothing to do with insurance; and in various parts of the present volume he has given references to the papers of more than thirty insurance cases in the Court of Admiralty from 1548 to 1591; and from the materials thus shown to be accessible he has printed policies dated 1547, 1548, 1555, 1557, 1558, 1562, 1563, 1565, and 1638, and three sentences delivered in 1561, 1565, and 1570, respectively. As most of the policies thus printed are much earlier than any English policies hitherto accessible, and as the earliest insurance case formally reported in the common law or chancery courts is a century later than the earliest insurance case in the Court of Admiralty to which this volume gives a reference, and as the reports contain allusions to only two or three insurance cases earlier than the seventeenth century,—those two or three bearing date in the last quarter of the sixteenth century,—it seems that the editor has taken much too modest a view of the value of the Admiralty records to one interested in the history of insurance.

E. W.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF CARRIERS OF PASSENGERS. In two volumes. By Norman Fetter. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1897. pp. xli, 1693.

The statement of the principles of the law of carriers of passengers in this work of Mr. Fetter's is fairly accurate. Had the book been condensed into one volume, it would have been satisfactory, except for the rather confusing treatment of some questions upon which there is a difference of opinion, as in §§ 531-532. But in the effort to expand it into two volumes, the author has carried to excess the useful practice of stating cases illustrative of the general principles. In chapter xxxviii. he has devoted thirty-four pages to the statement of verdicts of juries which have been upheld or set aside on account of the amount of damages. The long note to § 28 is another illustration of the same fault. Nor has proper care been taken to cut down to a reasonable length the abstracts of the cases which are stated; § 328 is one out of many instances. Moreover, the chapters on Damages, Evidence, and Pleading seem too long. Those subjects are not a part of the law of carriers of passengers, and might well have been more summarily treated.

The chapters on Contributory Negligence are the best in the book, and, on the whole, are well done. But the chief merits of the work, and those which will commend it to the profession, are an entertaining preface, a useful index, and a good collection of authorities. J. H. F.

GENERAL DIGEST. Vol. III., New Series. (January 1, 1897, to July 1, 1897.) Rochester: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co. 1897. pp. ix, 1562, xxv.

This latest volume of the General Digest contains a new feature which must necessarily make this work of even greater value to the profession than it has been hitherto. This improvement consists of an elaborate system of annotation. The judges themselves furnish notes on the authorities relied upon by the court in the case digested, outside of its own decisions, with citation of the cases criticised, distinguished, limited, or overruled. In addition to these notes, there is included an editorial compilation of the authorities on important questions raised by the current decisions. With the exception of the annotation, the general character of the Digest is the same as in previous volumes of the series.

H. D. H.